

## NEW NUCLEAR CHALLENGES IN EUROPE AND BEYOND

On Wednesday 2 May 2018, at 13:00–15:00  
In the Seminar Hall  
Arkadiankatu 23, entrance H (inner courtyard), Helsinki

Over the past few years, nuclear weapons have assumed renewed prominence in international affairs. But today's global security environment differs, in important ways, from the Cold War and immediate post-Cold War periods. Russia's military developments and perceived "saber rattling", the respective modernization programs of NATO's "nuclear allies" (the United States, France, and the United Kingdom), North Korea's expanding nuclear capabilities, and uncertainties regarding Iranian nuclear ambitions pose new challenges. Decades-long efforts to increase strategic stability, reduce the size of nuclear arsenals, and prevent further proliferation of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery are at risk. Finland's security and prosperity increasingly depend upon a stable and secure international environment, but new realities in the area of nuclear weapons – in Europe and beyond – could affect that environment in profound ways.

*Opening remarks:* **Mika Aaltola**, Programme Director, FIIA

*Speakers:* **Robert G. Bell**, CEO, National Security Counsel, LLC  
*"Maintaining nuclear deterrence in Europe: An American perspective."*

**John Rydqvist**, Deputy Research Director, Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI)  
*"Conflict scenarios in Northern Europe: how to understand the nuclear dimension"*

**Bruno Tertrais**, Deputy Director, Fondation pour la recherche stratégique  
*"The North Korean and Iranian challenges: How should the West respond?"*

*Chair:* **Leo Michel**, Visiting Senior Fellow, FIIA

## Biographies



**Mika Aaltola** is the Programme Director of the Global Security research programme at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. His areas of expertise are US foreign and domestic policies as well as the international system and major-power relations. He has been a visiting researcher in universities in the US and France, and he holds the rank of docent from the University of Tampere.



**Robert G. Bell** served as the Senior Civilian Representative of the Secretary of Defense in Europe and the Defense Advisor to the U.S. Ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization from 2010 until 2017. As the Senior Civilian Representative, Mr. Bell was responsible for planning, recommending, coordinating, and monitoring Department of Defense policies, programs, and initiatives throughout Europe. As Defence Advisor, he was responsible for the formulation, coordination, and presentation of Department of Defense policies to the U.S. Ambassador to NATO. Before assuming that position, Mr. Bell was the Senior Vice President of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) from 2004 until 2010. Mr. Bell served as NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defense Investment from 1999–2003. From 1993–1999, Mr. Bell worked at the White House National Security Council (NSC) as a Special Assistant to President Clinton for National Security Affairs and as the NSC Senior Director for Defense Policy and Arms Control.



**John Rydqvist** joined the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) in 2000. He is a Deputy Research Director and during the course of his tenure has headed the Security Policy and Weapons of Mass Destruction, Asia Security Studies and Defence Policy Studies programmes commissioned by the Swedish Ministry of Defence. Mr. Rydqvist's research includes nuclear weapons strategy in key nuclear powers, the strategic balance in East Asia and the Pacific theatre as well as strategic weapons modernization and force transformation in key powers of these regions. John holds a BA in history from Stockholm University and an MA in war studies from Kings College, London.



**Bruno Tertrais** is the Deputy Director of the Foundation for Strategic Research (Fondation pour la recherche stratégique, FRS), a non-profit organization and the main French center of expertise on international security and defence issues. Between 2001–2016 he was a Senior Research Fellow at the FRS. Previously, he served as the Assistant to the Director of Strategic Affairs at the French Defence Ministry (1993–2001) and as the Director of the Civilian Affairs Committee of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (1990–1992). He was also a Visiting Fellow at RAND Corporation between 1995–1996. He has published widely on his areas of expertise, which include international relations and geopolitics, conflicts, US strategy, transatlantic relations, security in the Middle East and in Asia, nuclear proliferation, nuclear deterrence and military strategy. Bruno Tertrais is also a member of the editorial board of *The Washington Quarterly* and *Strategic and Military Affairs*. He holds a PhD from the Paris Political Science Institute.



**Leo Michel** is a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs and a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council. Michel's previous government positions included: Distinguished Research Fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies; Director for NATO Policy and Director for Non-Nuclear Arms Control in the Office of the Secretary of Defense; Deputy U.S. Representative to the U.S.–Russia Bilateral Consultative Commission; analyst in the Central Intelligence Agency; and legislative aide for a Member of Congress. Michel holds a M.A. from Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies and a B.A. from Princeton University.